

# BALLOT FOR OPEDA NATIONAL PRESIDENT

See Candidate Information on back of page

<b>M. Farook Sait</b>		<b>George A. Pavelis</b>	
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## BALLOT FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Region 1 – Alaska, Idaho, Washington <b>Hal Swenson</b>		Region 15 – Kentucky, Tennessee <b>Larry Duewer</b>	
Region 2 – Oregon <b>Roy Brokken</b>		Region 16 – Alabama, Mississippi <b>Carl Pennington</b>	
Region 3 – N. California, Nevada <b>Wallace Yokayama</b>		Region 17 – Florida, Puerto Rico <b>Michael Botelho</b>	
Region 4 – S. California, Hawaii, Guam <b>Joe Smilanick</b>		Region 18 – Georgia <b>James M. Terry</b>	
Region 5 – Arizona, New Mexico <b>Richard Shaw</b>		Region 19 – N & S Carolina <b>Curtis Hobbs</b>	
Region 6 – Colorado, Utah, Wyoming <b>Raymond L. Anderson</b>		Region 20 – Virginia, W Virginia <b>Holly Hayes Hambley</b>	
Region 7 – Montana, N & S Dakota <b>Dale Van Eckhout</b>		Region 21 – Michigan, Ohio <b>Howard Terry Nicholson</b>	
Region 8 – Iowa, Nebraska <b>Richard T. Clark</b>		Region 22 – New England <b>Julian Drelich</b>	
Region 9 – Kansas, Oklahoma <b>Jeffrey Gross</b>		Region 23 - Pennsylvania, New Jersey <b>Kathkeen Rajkowski</b>	
Region 10E – East Texas <b>Robert Purdom</b>		Region 24 – Delaware, Maryland <b>Willie Pittman</b>	
Region 10W – West Texas <b>Eddy M. Spurgin</b>		Region 25 – DC Area, FAS, FSA, OSEC <b>Louis Iacoletti</b>	
Region 11 – Arkansas, Louisiana <b>Burthel Thomas</b>		Region 26 – DC area, Economics, Extension, Statistical Agencies, Research <b>Dwight Gadsby</b>	
Region 12 – Missouri <b>write in</b>		Region 27 - DC Area, AMS, APHIS, FGIS, FNS, FSIS, HNIS <b>Winona Scott, Esq.</b>	
Region 13 - Minnesota, Wisconsin <b>Michael Leurance</b>			
Region 14 – Illinois, Indiana <b>William (Randy) Edwards</b>		Region 28 – RD, RUS, NRCS, FS <b>Ed Dickerhoof</b>	

Vote for **one candidate** for National President and **one candidate** for Council Member in your Region by placing an X next to the candidate's name, or you may write in a candidate of your choice. Mail completed Ballot to OPEDA, P.O. Box 381, Washington, DC 20044. **The Ballot must be postmarked by June 30, 2006**, or it will not be counted. If you have any questions, please call the OPEDA National Office at 202-720-4898

## Information on Candidates for OPEDA National President

### M. Farook Sait



Currently serving as Special Counsel to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Farook has worked for USDA since 1972. He received his undergraduate degree from Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, Maryland. In 1971 he earned the Juris Doctor degree from the Howard University School of Law, Washington, D.C. In 1994 he completed the Senior Executive Leadership Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He is a member of the Maryland Bar Association and the United States Supreme Court.

Farook's career at USDA began in the Office of Civil Rights in 1972. Since then he has held increasingly challenging positions in management. He has served as manager of key divisions and functioned as Acting Deputy Director for extended periods. His leadership skills and technical knowledge result in frequent requests for assistance from USDA agencies and other Departments (Small Business Administration, Department of the Interior, Office of Personnel Management). He has received numerous awards for his dedication and outstanding performance.

Farook has taught for Columbia Union College and graduate courses for Central Michigan University and Pepperdine University. He is an expert in Conflict Resolution and is a trained Mediator for the Maryland courts. He has conducted workshops at conferences of national organizations such as the Federal Dispute Resolution, Inc., the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the Federal Asian Pacific American Council.

Farook has served as President of other USDA and non-USDA organizations and provides *pro bono* legal services to community and religious organizations. He appears as a host on a popular television program frequently and is very active in community affairs. Farook is married and has one son who has served in the United States Navy.

Farook pledges to improve OPEDA service to its members; increase OPEDA membership; attract more volunteer service; strengthen partnerships with agencies and employee organizations; and ensure OPEDA's financial well being.

### George A. Pavelis



After military service (U.S. Army), and having a farm background Dr. Pavelis obtained degrees in agriculture and economics from Montana State University and Iowa State University. In service with ARS and the Economic Research Service he has initiated and provided leadership for basic economic research in USDA on conserving natural resources, in cooperation with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service as well as various 1867 and 1890 Land Grant Universities. He has served as a USDA Liaison Officer to the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore and has provided financial advisory assistance to farm families participating in farm loan programs of USDA. These kinds of connections with agricultural interests will be maintained. He also continues serving as a judge of agricultural, environmental and other scientific papers prepared by High School students competing in the Virginia Junior Academy of Science.

Goals and Pledges: 1. A primary goal is to provide more services of particular interest to current USDA employees, retirees, and young members newly employed in USDA. 2. A second goal is to broaden the membership base for OPEDA by constructive communication with management officials and existing members wherever located and by reaching out to other professional and support colleagues that may qualify for membership. 3 Pledges that all OPEDA officers will regard the interests and welfare of the membership as being superior to their own interests. 4. Pledges to conduct all OPEDA activities and office operations with due regard to maintaining the financial viability and integrity of the organization.